

Appln No. 10/038,346
Amdt date February 15, 2006
Reply to Notice of Allowance mailed February 3, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-128. (Canceled)

Claim 129. (Previously Presented) A method for assisting a user of a vehicle comprising:
determining whether the vehicle needs a maintenance service;
obtaining data concerning locations of at least first and second service providers for
providing the maintenance service when it is determined that the vehicle needs the maintenance
service;
obtaining data concerning a current location of the vehicle;
determining, of the at least first and second service providers, a closer service provider to
the current location of the vehicle based on the data concerning the current location of the
vehicle and the data concerning the locations of the at least first and second service providers;
and
selecting the closer service provider to provide the maintenance service when the closer
service provider is within a predetermined distance from the current location of the vehicle.

Claim 130. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 129 further comprising
communicating to the user information about the selected service provider when the selected
service provider is within the predetermined distance from the current location of the vehicle.

Claim 131. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 130 wherein the information is
communicated via audio media.

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Claim 132. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 130 wherein the information is communicated visually.

Claim 133. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 129 wherein data concerning a location of the selected service provider is supplied to a navigator for providing directions to reach the location of the selected service provider.

Claim 134. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 129 wherein the data concerning the locations of the at least first and second service providers includes GPS data.

Claim 135. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 129 wherein the data concerning the current location of the vehicle includes GPS data.

Claim 136. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 129 wherein the selected service provider includes a service station.

Claim 137. (Previously Presented) A method for use in a system in a vehicle comprising:
storing data concerning locations of a plurality of service providers; determining whether the vehicle needs a maintenance service; retrieving at least part of the data in response to a determination that the vehicle

needs the maintenance service;

comparing data concerning a current location of the vehicle with the retrieved data to identify one of the plurality of service providers which is closest to the current location of the vehicle and provides the maintenance service; and

selecting the identified service provider to provide the maintenance service when the identified service provider is within a predetermined distance from the current location of the vehicle.

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Claim 138. (Canceled)

Claim 139. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 137 further comprising communicating information about the selected service provider when the selected service provider is within the predetermined distance from the current location of the vehicle.

Claim 140. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 139 wherein the information is communicated via audio media.

Claim 141. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 139 wherein the information is communicated visually.

Claim 142. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 137 wherein data concerning a location of the selected service provider is supplied to a navigator for providing directions to reach the location of the selected service provider.

Claim 143. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 137 wherein the retrieved data includes GPS data.

Claim 144. (Canceled)

Claim 145. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 137 wherein the data concerning the current location of the vehicle includes GPS data.

Claim 146. (Previously Presented) A system for use in a vehicle comprising:
a memory for storing data concerning locations of a plurality of service providers;

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a mechanism for determining whether the vehicle needs a maintenance service, at least part of the data being retrieved from the memory in response to a determination that the vehicle needs the maintenance service; and

a processor for comparing data concerning a current location of the vehicle with the retrieved data to identify one of the plurality of service providers which is closest to the current location of the vehicle and provides the maintenance service, the identified service provider being selected to provide the maintenance service when the identified service provider is within a predetermined distance from the current location of the vehicle.

Claim 147. (Canceled)

Claim 148. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 146 further comprising an interface for communicating information about the selected service provider when the selected service provider is within the predetermined distance from the current location of the vehicle.

Claim 149. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 148 wherein the information is communicated via audio media.

Claim 150. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 148 wherein the interface includes a display element, and the information is displayed on the display element.

Claim 151. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 146 wherein data concerning a location of the selected service provider is supplied to a navigator for providing directions to reach the location of the selected service provider.

Claim 152. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 146 wherein the retrieved data includes GPS data.

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Claim 153. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 146 wherein the data concerning the current location of the vehicle includes GPS data.

Claim 154. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 146 wherein the selected service provider includes a service station.